

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims in this application to read as follows:

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A memory card for storing data transmitted from an external apparatus, said memory card comprising:

a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external apparatus;

a switch manually settable by a user to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash memory;

an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to a read status instruction transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus and said control means receiving from said external apparatus data to be written to said flash memory and a write instruction signal only if the state of said switch that is sent to said external apparatus is not said state which inhibits writing.

20. (Previously presented) A memory card as claimed in claim 19, wherein said interface includes nine connectors at least one of which transmits and receives data.

21. (Previously presented) A memory card as claimed in claim 19, wherein said data is received from and transmitted to said external apparatus in serial form.

22. (Currently amended) A system comprising a memory card and an external apparatus, wherein data is communicated therebetween,

said memory card comprising:

a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external apparatus;

a switch manually settable by a user to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash memory;

an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to a read status instruction transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus and said control means responding to a write instruction received from said external apparatus via said interface to write into said flash memory data received from said external apparatus;

and said external apparatus comprising:

a controller for writing data to or erasing data from the flash memory of said memory card, said controller transmitting a read status instruction to said memory card via said interface to determine whether a data writing operation to the flash memory of said memory card is inhibited and said controller transmitting via said interface said write instruction and said data to be written into said flash memory after said external apparatus receives said state of said switch and only if said state is not the state that inhibits writing.

23. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said interface includes nine connectors at least one of which transmits and receives data.

24. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said data is received from and transmitted to said external apparatus in serial form.